

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin

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EDITOR

Mortality in 1930

An analysis of deaths that occurred in California during 1930 reveals interesting data relative to the trend of mortality in some of the major causes. A total of 66,178 deaths were registered in this State last year. Of these deaths, 16,176 or almost 25 per cent were due to diseases of the circulatory system; more than 15 per cent of all deaths, 7195, were due to cancer and 6394 were due to diseases of the nervous system. Last year, for the first time, deaths from diseases of the nervous system exceeded deaths from tuberculosis in California, of which there were 5629 recorded. More than half of all deaths (53.5 per cent) were due to the four causes mentioned above—diseases of the circulatory system, cancer, diseases of the nervous system and tuberculosis.

Diseases of the respiratory system claimed 4895 lives, and deaths from nephritis totaled 4813. There were 4460 deaths from diseases of the digestive system and deaths from external causes exclusive of automobile deaths, totaled 3169. Epidemic diseases caused 2793 deaths, and deaths from other general diseases totaled 2655. There were 2573 deaths from early infancy and malformations, and 2356 automobile deaths. There were 1509 suicides. Deaths from non-venereal genito-urinary causes were 914; the total number of deaths from puerperal causes reached 443. Deaths from senility were only 204.

The increasing number of deaths from cancer and diseases of the nervous system provides interesting material for study. The number of deaths from these two causes totaled 13,589, as compared with 16,176

deaths from diseases of the circulatory system. It would appear that there may be a possibility of these two causes, together, eventually displacing the lead which deaths from diseases of the circulatory system have always maintained. The decreasing number of deaths from tuberculosis is conspicuous. The total deaths from this cause in 1930 constituted but 8.5 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes.

The increasing number of automobile deaths is receiving a great deal of attention. It is interesting to note that more than 40 per cent of all deaths from external causes last year were due to automobile deaths. Deaths in the industries do not occur as frequently as they did in former years, and it would appear that automobile deaths may soon constitute the major portion of all deaths from external causes. The relatively few number of deaths from epidemic diseases, 2793, indicates that efforts exerted in their control have not been in vain. The large number of deaths from suicides constitutes a problem for sociologists and mental hygienists. The increasing number of suicides each year indicates that there may be need for the application of some remedy, undiscovered as yet, to prevent the increase in the number of deaths from this cause.

Where there is love of humanity, there also is love for the art of medicine.—*Hippocrates*.

An important phase of medicine is the ability to appraise the literature correctly.—*Hippocrates*.

SACRAMENTO RIVER SURVEY

During July and August the flow of the Sacramento River at Sacramento has been hardly detectable. The unusually low stage of the river has had a marked effect upon stream pollution. As a matter of fact, the principal medium for sewage disposal was the tidal ebb and flow which carried the sewage back and forth over a stretch of river from eight to twelve miles long, depending upon the tide. Tests revealed a high contamination of the river water, but within certain areas self-purification was particularly active due to the action of algal growths. The results of the survey indicate that the capacity of the Sacramento River to handle sewage becomes more limited each year, and under conditions of flow that have existed this summer it is doubtful that the river can handle the sewage of Sacramento at such time as the population of the city may have doubled.

TYPHOID FEVER REPORTED

A considerable number of cases of typhoid fever, contracted through drinking water from contaminated streams, have been reported in California this summer. A special investigation within the river area of Sacramento County revealed the fact that 26 persons who had contracted typhoid fever had been drinking raw river water or had been swimming in the Sacramento or American Rivers.

Along the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz County 10 cases of typhoid fever have been reported during the summer months. The exact source of infection has not been determined, but it is probable that swimming in the polluted San Lorenzo River is responsible for the infection. It may be stated here, however, that through the activity of the Division of Sanitary Inspection the discharge of sewage from the Boulder Creek Sanitary District, which entered the San Lorenzo River, has been discontinued, and the sewer lines leading to the septic tanks on the bank of the river have been disconnected. This action brings to an end a nuisance which has been particularly aggravating.

FEEDING STUFFS ANALYZED

Samples analyzed showed violations of Section 3 (j) of the California Feeding Stuffs Act, and discrepancies between guaranteed analyses on tags and laboratory analyses.

Letters of warning and instruction were written to 19 firms. Replies have been received, agreeing to correct the formulas or tags. In all cases the feeding stuff concerns will cooperate with the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

ANNOUNCE EXAMINATION FOR LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

The next examination for laboratory technicians will be held in both Berkeley and Los Angeles during the last week of November. The exact time and place will be communicated individually to all having applications on file as soon as the date is definitely set. All persons desiring to take these examinations should apply to Dr. W. H. Kellogg, Chief of the State Laboratory, Berkeley, for a form on which to file their intention of appearing.

Although open to all technicians, perhaps a word concerning the requirements for passing may be a help in deciding whether or not one has a chance for good grades. One-half only of the total possible credits may be earned by the written paper. The rest of the credits are made up of allowances for experience and education. It is evident, therefore, that experience alone, unless extensive and under good auspices, is not sufficient. However, if the paper is 80 or over an experience of three years may enable one to get the senior certificate, and likewise a college degree with a major directly related to the subject will, if the paper is over 80, give a senior grade certificate.

N. O. P. H. N. CONDUCTS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The National Organization for Public Health Nursing has announced a nation-wide campaign for the purpose of increasing its membership. The campaign which started October 1, will end at the biennial convention of the organization which will be held in San Antonio, Texas, in April. State and local committees are being organized to carry on the campaign in their respective territories. This is the one national organization for public health nurses, and every public health nurse should be a member of her own professional organization. It is said that less than one-fourth of the public health nurses in the country are members of the national organization.

HORSE SLAUGHTERHOUSES INVESTIGATED

Complaints relative to sanitary conditions in several horse slaughterhouses in Sonoma County led to an investigation of five such establishments. The county health officer and the county humane officer assisted in making these investigations. As a result, the owners of these establishments will be required to make needed sanitary improvements.

The future of the race marches forward on the feet of little CHILDREN.—*Phillips Brooks.*

SICKNESS EXPENSIVE—HEALTH CHEAP

Dr. Warren F. Fox, Health Officer of Imperial County, in his "Weekly Health News" quotes an interesting statement by N. P. Levin, M.D., of the Los Angeles County Health Department, which was published originally in the Los Angeles County Health News May-June, 1931. The statement reads as follows:

A bitter cry is heard over the land, "Sickness Costs too Much!" The finger of accusation is immediately pointed to the doctor. It will therefore be a revelation to many to discover that the cost of doctoring constitutes only one-fourth the total cost of sickness care. To be exact, the very elaborate "Philadelphia Hospital and Health Survey, 1929" gives this figure as 26 per cent, which is believed to be fairly representative for the large cities of the country.

Hospitals take about as much of the sick man's money as the doctors—27 per cent of the total cost of sickness care. Drugs and medicines consume an even 20 per cent, or one-fifth of the total. Think of it! Out of every \$100 spent on sickness \$20 goes for drugs, two-thirds of which are for patent medicines and home remedies sold over the counter. The dentist comes in for a good share too. He receives one-half of what the doctor gets—13 per cent, or a wee bit more than one-eighth of the whole. This is rather surprising. Maintaining the teeth in two mouths—a mere handful—costs as much as an entire body weighing 150 pounds including two lungs, two kidneys, at least one heart, not to mention a brain and numerous sundry bits of anatomy. However, after stopping to think that each adult mouth virtually contains thirty-two dental patients, and that numerous things may go wrong with any one of them, the high cost of dental care is robbed of its mystery.

And now we come to the most surprising figure of all, only two per cent of the total cost went for Public Health Services—less than one-sixth of what is spent on the teeth alone. Yet Public Health is the tail that wags the dog. "Is this a system?" as Milt Gross would have put it.

Sickness is expensive, but Health is cheap.

SAN BERNARDINO HEALTH UNIT ORGANIZED

A full-time health unit for San Bernardino County has been organized, and Dr. E. B. Godfrey of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has been appointed County Health Officer. Dr. V. N. Pinkley of San Bernardino has been appointed Deputy County Health Officer. Miss Nannie P. Montgomery has been appointed Public Health Nurse.

Dr. Godfrey is a graduate in medicine of the University of Cincinnati, and he practiced medicine in Springfield, Illinois, for seven years. He was in command of a field hospital in France during the World War, following which he was engaged in typhus control work among Russian refugees. He was director of the American Red Cross in Turkey and Greece for several years. He has served as city health officer of Sioux City, Iowa, and was Director of the Webster Parish Health Bureau in Louisiana. During the past two years, Dr. Godfrey has been Health Officer of Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

Nothing is more indispensably necessary than to be well acquainted with the properties of FOOD.

EXAMINATIONS OF CHILDREN IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Dr. W. B. Wells, City and County Health Officer at Riverside, is cooperating with the Physical Director of Riverside County Schools, George E. Lunt, in providing medical examinations for all school children of Riverside County. Clinics will be conducted by Dr. Wells, assisted by medical specialists and nurses, in all of the schools of the county. Complete records of findings will be made, and teachers and parents will be supplied with copies of these reports. A plan of follow-up work for the purpose of learning if physical defects found in the child are being corrected will be undertaken. The physical director of the schools states that he has been handicapped in carrying out the program of physical education throughout the county because of the lack of medical inspection services. The program of physical education for the child must depend upon his physical capacity. Dr. Wells and his assistants are now providing the necessary service.

SAN LORENZO RIVER CLEAN-UP

Discharge of sewage from the Boulder Creek district into the San Lorenzo River has been discontinued. Sewage in the future will be disposed of on the premises of each individual owner by means of septic tanks or cesspools. In making this change 101 septic tanks and cesspools have been provided. Practically all improvements with reference to sewage disposal on premises situated adjacent to the San Lorenzo River and its tributaries have been completed. The citizens of Brookdale are now making arrangements to install a new sewer system under the State Act.

PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Public health nurses who desire positions and health officers, as well as organizations, seeking qualified public health nurses may secure assistance by applying to the California State Department of Public Health, Giles S. Porter, M.D., Director, Sacramento, California.

From Hippocrates to Hunter, the treatment of disease was one long traffic in hypotheses.—*Osler*.

MORBIDITY***Diphtheria.**

65 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 5, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Lakeport 1, Los Angeles County 6, Compton 2, Los

* From reports received on October 19th and 20th for week ending October 17th.

Angeles 19, Redondo 1, Santa Monica 1, Torrance 1, Lynwood 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, Nevada City 1, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Orange 4, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 5, Ontario 2, San Jose 1, Santa Rosa 1, Modesto 1, Ventura 3.

Scarlet Fever.

98 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 4, Fresno County 1, Humboldt County 1, Kings County 3, Los Angeles County 11, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 39, Montebello 1, Redondo 2, Madera 1, Monterey County 1, Pacific Grove 1, Orange County 7, Anaheim 4, Fullerton 2, Riverside County 3, Corona 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 4, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Maria 1, Santa Cruz 1, Modesto 1, Yuba City 1, Yolo County 1, Marysville 1.

Measles.

72 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Oakland 4, Humboldt County 11, Eureka 7, Los Angeles County 2, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 7, Merced County 1, Corona 1, Sacramento 19, Ontario 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 13, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Cruz 1.

Smallpox.

3 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Riverside 1, San Francisco 1, Redding 1.

Typhoid Fever.

6 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Fresno County 2, Los Angeles 1, Montebello 1, Ventura County 1.

Whooping Cough.

99 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 5, Berkeley 3, Oakland 3, Fresno 1, Humboldt County 8, Los Angeles County 7, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 20, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, Sierra Madre 2, Lynwood 1, Maywood 2, Huntington Beach 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 4, Redlands 3, San Diego 5, San Francisco 10, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 2, Santa Barbara 1, Ventura County 5, Fillmore 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

6 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 3, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 1, Yolo County 1.

Poliomyelitis.

7 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 2, Los Angeles County 1, El Monte 1, South Gate 1, Tulare County 1, Yolo County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

2 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Sacramento County 1.

Trichinosis.

Vallejo reported 12 cases of trichinosis.

Food Poisoning.

10 cases of food poisoning have been reported, as follows: Kings County 1, Los Angeles 1, Santa Monica 5, Daly City 3.

Undulant Fever.

San Joaquin County reported one case of undulant fever.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1931			1930				
	Week ending		Reports for week ending Oct. 17 received by Oct. 20	Week ending		Reports for week ending Oct. 18 received by Oct. 21		
	Sept. 26	Oct. 3		Sept. 27	Oct. 4			
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	
Botulism	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chickenpox	43	67	95	81	107	134	134	
Coccidioidal Granuloma	2	3	2	0	1	0	0	
Diphtheria	60	72	62	65	45	58	55	
Dysentery (Amoebic)	0	0	0	14	1	0	0	
Dysentery (Bacillary)	4	12	4	7	4	3	10	
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	1	0	2	6	1	0	
Erysipelas	10	11	7	6	6	8	6	
Food Poisoning	6	44	1	10	4	1	6	
German Measles	8	5	6	6	1	7	9	
Gonococcus Infection	134	163	167	227	110	132	143	
Hookworm	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Influenza	23	30	74	67	29	31	26	
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	
Leprosy	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	
Malaria	2	0	3	2	0	1	1	
Measles	38	67	96	72	60	82	69	
Meningitis (Epidemic)	6	7	3	6	4	0	4	
Mumps	64	44	61	75	111	118	97	
Ophthalmia Necatorum	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	
Paratyphoid Fever	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	
Pellagra	2	1	1	1	5	3	0	
Pneumonia (Lobar)	37	34	44	28	58	22	41	
Poliomyelitis	10	6	8	7	76	70	76	
Rabies (Animal)	8	4	4	12	26	13	9	
Scarlet Fever	67	109	71	98	68	82	83	
Septic Sore Throat	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Smallpox	5	4	10	3	18	16	23	
Syphilis	170	194	159	220	130	161	154	
Tetanus	4	2	1	0	2	1	2	
Trachoma	2	10	15	72	4	1	2	
Trichinosis	1	1	0	12	1	1	0	
Tuberculosis	203	230	192	145	232	226	200	
Tularemia	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	
Typhoid Fever	9	26	16	6	19	18	13	
Undulant Fever	3	2	1	1	6	3	1	
Whooping Cough	113	95	93	99	88	100	105	
Totals	1,043	1,254	1,200	1,344	1,223	1,238	1,327	



Diphtheria is considerably more prevalent than at the same season of last year.

Influenza is reported as showing slight increases.

Scarlet fever was more prevalent last week.

Smallpox has all but disappeared.

